

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Pamela Mills

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Charles Seaford

TOWN COUNCIL
Don Bringle
Arthur Heggins
Brandon Linn
Rodney Phillips
Steve Stroud

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
6:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seaford called the regular meeting of February 4, 2020 to order. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Seaford called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Heggins. There was a quorum.

The meeting started at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor Seaford amended the agenda and moved the Proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month to item c on the consent agenda and remove Greg Eds from Public Comment. Mr. Linn made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

- a) Approve Minutes from the January 7th, 2020 regular meeting
- b) Adopt Resolution Administrative Manual for Stormwater
- c) Adopt Proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Luke Hamaty-124 Dots Circle - He stated he has lived in China Grove for 25 years. He asked the Council to think of him as a citizen and neighbor and not an enemy. He asked the Council to table the 2nd Amendment Resolution. He stated the Resolution does not benefit nor harms the residence in China Grove. He asked if it is possible that the Resolution benefits the Council. He stated it takes no courage to jump on the bandwagon to the cheers to the party faithful. He stated he has not seen the China Grove Resolution but has seen Rowan Counties and feels it is far from truthful and far from harmless. He stated all the Virginia legislature did was pass a few measures. He stated the language in these Resolution are used to justify violence and bloodshed. He stated it is also the type of language that divides a nation.

Chris Rodgers-308 W Stevens Street - He stated he believes if you don't act and wait until it is too late then you do not have a choice. He stated there are individuals that have stated they will come and take our guns that we have bought legally. He stated there are a lot of laws that were passed just recently in Virginia that the

citizens don't agree with and thousands showed up in opposition of those laws. He stated he was a first responder and was a volunteer fireman until he was injured. He stated he believes that response time is critical. He stated by the time the police get to your house and someone is trying to break in it will be too late. He stated you do have a right to protect your family and home. He stated if they start taking away guns when do they stop. He stated only through preventive measures like this Resolution to show where the people stand, we can hope to retain our rights.

Rep. Larry Pittman-250 Roberta Road SW, Concord, NC 28027 - He stated all though he does not live in China Grove he does represents China Grove in the legislature. He stated people keep saying that the 2nd Amendment is in the Constitution so why does towns need to do this. He thanked the Council for considering this Resolution. He asked what if the County did not mean it, what if the Sheriff Department decides to turn against you, what if the Police Department decides to turn against you. He stated passing this Resolution puts it in record that you stand with the people. He stated this is what is needed in the face of all the gun control madness taking over the nation today. He stated we need leaders at every level of government to say we understand what our founding fathers meant when they put the 2nd Amendment into the Constitution.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Two Police Vehicles

Mr. Deal stated we have received the audit and it is available at Town Hall and online for anyone to see. He stated each Department has done a great job in managing their budgets. He stated we have \$257,000 that we can put back into reserve. He stated during the budget process we decided not to purchase vehicles for the Police Department this year. He stated in speaking with the Police Chief there are two vehicles that need to be replaced and come out of the rotation. He stated he is asking for \$73,000 of the money to purchase two new vehicles. He stated this would cover the vehicles, decal and fitting with all equipment.

Chief Deal stated both vehicles would have lights but one would be an undercover vehicle. Mr. Deal stated one vehicle from the Police Department will be transferred to Code Enforcement.

Mr. Bringle asked if the vehicles would be purchased through the State or through the Sheriff's Association. Chief Deal stated the Sheriff's Association due to being cheaper.

Mr. Phillips stated he thinks it is great to be able to place this amount of money into reserve. He stated there were other things that we wanted to fund that was cut during the budget process. He asked if this is the most important need in town. Mr. Linn stated he believes purchasing these vehicles is the most important need. He stated he knows the vehicle the Detective drives has needed to be replaced for some time now. Mr. Deal stated with these purchases this will get us back on track with replacing vehicles. He stated this will eliminate the need to replace four vehicles next year. Mr. Bringle stated the number one thing needed in China Grove is roads but this amount will not touch the cost needed for repaving. He stated it would take three million dollars to bring the roads up to standard.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to purchase two new police vehicles. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Adopt Resolution Declaring China Grove 2nd Amendment Sanctuary

Mr. Stroud thanked Mr. Hamaty for coming and voicing his opinion. He stated when we do hear from a citizen which is rare, we do listen. He stated he feels his duty as a Councilman is to represent the majority of the people in China Grove. He stated he does not believe this country is being led by the minority now. He stated this resolution truly means nothing in the big scheme of things. He stated the problem in this country is not guns it is people. He stated we have raised generation after generation that care less and less about

violence. He stated once these gun control people get a little bit, they want a little more. He stated this Resolution is just saying that we as a town and as the Town Council believe in the 2nd Amendment.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adopt the Resolution Declaring China Grove a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) Update on 2020 Census

Mr. Gover stated Patti and himself have been involved in the Rowan County Complete Count Committee. He stated this committee is local government employees that are dedicating their time in promoting the 2020 Census and encouraging everyone to participate. He stated the Rowan County Library will be deploy computers to some Meal sites throughout the County. He stated our residence should be receiving their Census information in mid-March. He stated the document will direct them to go online to complete the Census. He stated there are target areas that had low response rates in 2010. He stated you will see increased media across the county to spread the message. Mayor Seaford asked what our numbers were in the 2010 Census. Mr. Gover stated he believes there was a 73% response rate. Mr. Stroud stated the importance of the Census to us is the number of people counted in China Grove reflects the amount of funding that we receive from the State and Federal Government. Mr. Gover stated we will place a computer in the lobby so that those that do not have access to a computer will.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

I) Fire Department

Chief Zimmerman stated there were 103 calls in January which is up from December.

II) Police Department

Chief Deal stated last Saturday morning there was an armed robbery at the Kangaroo. He stated they have some leads and the media has pictures of the suspect.

III) Administration Department

a) Finance

Mrs. Bopp stated the RFP for a new auditor was sent out for this coming year. She stated we need two auditors this year due to the new yellow book regulations.

b) Parks and Recreation

Mr. Phillips stated Benesch is on target with the Parks Master Plan. He stated 51 people filled the survey out online. He stated the first Public Meeting was last night, and the next Public Meeting will be on March 2nd. He stated the Master Plan will be presented to Town Council on April 7th.

Mr. Deal stated we are still trying to hold the sledding event but due to the weather it has not been possibility.

Mr. Gover stated there is a Quasi-Judicial hearing coming up in March. He stated it is a 215 unit apartment complex near I-85. He stated the Planning Board will be reviewing it at their February 13th meeting.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Seaford stated he attended the MPO meeting in January and there is no upcoming projects in China Grove as far as MPO in this calendar year.

Mayor Seaford stated he will be attending a training class for Mayors on February 27th.

Mr. Bringle asked for a NCDOT update. Mr. Deal stated each segment is a 90 day period. He stated they hope to be complete in March. Mr. Bringle asked if there is another traffic change coming. Mr. Deal stated when they switch traffic to the upper lane they will be working on the lower lane.

Mr. Stroud stated he has been appointed to the Rowan Emergency Response Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Mills, CMC
Town Clerk

Charles Seaford
Mayor